



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 3

March 2009

www.circlecranch.info

Circle C Swim Center News

Submitted by Brandon Ducote

Due to federally mandated legislation, we will be closing the facility from February 13th through March 1st (First day of Spring Break for Austin ISD) in order to install pool drains that are compliant with regulations put in place by Congress last year. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

We are already gearing up for the warmer months ahead and are in the process of completing the schedule for swim lessons and summer programming. The Circle C Seals are also getting ready for the 2009 summer league, and if you have any questions about their program you can visit the Seals web site at www.ccseals.org. Registration for the Seals will begin in March. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to email them to aquatics@circlecranch.info! We will be offering lifeguard certification classes the first weekend of Spring Break, March 13th-16th. If you are interested in working at the facility over the 2009 summer season, we will be looking to fill lifeguard, swim instructor, and front desk positions following spring break.

Stay warm, keep swimming, and we'll see you at the pool!

Spring Break Hours (March 1 – March 20): 6am to 8pm (Rec area opens at 10am)

Spring Hours (beginning March 21, 2009)

Lap Swim Only

Mon-Fri 6:00am – 10:00am

Saturday 8:00am – 10:00am

Sunday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Recreation

Mon-Fri 9:00am to 10:00am and 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday 10:00am to 6:00pm

Sunday 10:00pm to 6:00pm

2009 CCHOA Annual Meeting

Each home owner should receive an Annual Meeting Packet in the mail the last week of February 2009. The packet will contain an agenda for the 2009 CCHOA Annual Meeting, a ballot and a proxy form to vote in the 2009 Board of Directors election. Also included in this year's annual meeting ballot, will be a proposal to amend the CCHOA Bylaws regarding the nomination process for the board of directors. Full details will be included with the Annual Meeting Packet.

For the 2009 Board of Directors election, the candidates are: Janice Cahalane, Mary Goehring, John Lopez and Joel Pace. You can read their bios and candidate questionnaires online at: <http://www.circlecranch.info>. You can also request a hard copy by calling the HOA office at 288-8663.

The CCHOA Board has decided to suspend online voting until a more suitable vendor and application can be found. Our unique weighted system of voting makes the entire process very complicated and difficult to manage from a web site. The year the board has agreed to use those funds for Early Voting Prizes. Full details can be found on the website at: <http://www.circlecranch.info>. Remember, in order to be eligible for Early Voting Prizes you must turn in either your ballot or proxy by one of the three deadlines preceding the annual meeting. They are: March 6, March 13 and March 20. You must be current on your HOA dues to vote. For questions regarding the HOA dues, please contact our financial manager, Terri Giles, at 451-9901.

If you do not receive your packet or misplace your packet, please contact the HOA office for a duplicate.

Upcoming HOA Events

- March 10, 2009 – Candidate Forum (for Board Positions) 7pm at Kiker
- March 25, 2009 – CCHOA Annual Meeting 6:30pm at Kiker
- April 11, 2009 – Easter Egg Hunt 9:30am CDC & Swim Center
- April 18, 2009 – Annual Garage Sale Date

CIRCLE C RANCH

CCHOA Numbers

HOA Mgmt Office info@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
Financial Office 451-9901
Aquatics Director 288-4239
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Inc. Sales Office. 512-263-9181
Adv./Kelly Peel...advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

Circle C Amenities

Circle C Café 288-6058
Circle C CDC..... 288-9792
Circle C Swim Center 288-6057
Circle C Tennis Club General@CircleCTennis.com, 301-8685
Sub Association Info:
KB Enclave and Fairway Estates HOA
Kim Bigley, CMCA, Manager..... 347-2888
Parkwest HOA
Goodwin Management 502-7509
Streetman Enclave HOA
Camille Belcher 646-6710
Muirfield HOA
Sara Huff 219-1927

2009 Board of Directors

Rob Johnson President
Steve Urban..... Vice President
Cynthia Moreland..... Secretary
Russ Hodes Treasurer
Jason Bram..... Development Officer
Cindy Groves Board Member
Mary Goehring Board Member
Contact Information Email: directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Austin Solid Waste 974.1945
Dead Animal Collection..... 974.2000
Abandoned Vehicle..... 974.8119
Pothole Complaints..... 974.8750
Stop Signs 457.4885
Street Light Outage 505.7617
Schools
Clayton Elementary 841.9200
Kiker Elementary 414.2584
Mills Elementary..... 841.2400
Bailey Middle School 414.4990
Small Middle School 841.6700
Bowie High School 414.5247
SAYSA..... 899.1049

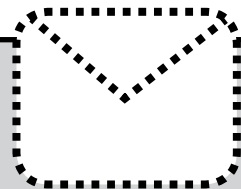
Circle C Open House

Circle C Open House is a neighborhood-wide tour of open houses. Any realtor or FSBO may register their home within Circle C. Tours are held every other Sunday from 1pm to 4pm in Circle C. Submit your listings by 3pm on Friday to have your property on the next tour. Questions? info@circlecopenhouse.com
www.circlecopenhouse.com

Remember NO Dumping at the Swim Center's Dumpsters

Just a reminder that the dumpster located in the swim center parking lot is for HOA trash ONLY.

Go Green
Go Paperless

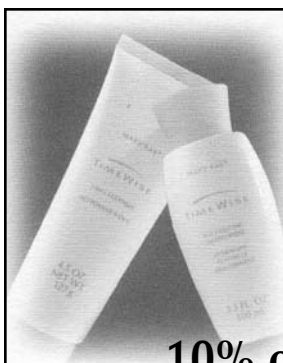


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**of the
Month**

The Jaymes Willoughby Team works with home improvement contractors every day, from plumbers to window washers, to landscape gurus. We know who's reliable, and who can't be trusted. Check back here every month to find the name of someone who we think is one of the best!

Not intended to solicit properties currently for sale.

CCHOA News

Circle C Landscape

Submitted by Susan Hoover

We can hardly believe that spring is already here! That brings a lot of activity for landscape. Over the past two months we have been trimming all of the perennial and shrub beds and adding new mulch. Winter weeds have been treated, and a pre-emergent weed killer has been applied to both bed and turf areas.

We have already begun our regular mowing schedule. In 2009, Circle C Landscape is scheduled for 38 maintenance services throughout the property. We will begin our weekly mowing schedule around mid-March. We will also be fertilizing and preparing various areas for improvements.

We have been working on several improvements to the irrigation system over the winter months. These include working with a water engineer on water pressure and water meter issues on Escarpment, installing a new meter for a portion of Escarpment and researching some ways to implement centralized control for a portion of the irrigation system. Of note, we have purchased and

are installing a sophisticated solar sensor for each of our 40 irrigation controllers. These sensors will provide Evapo-Transpiration weather data to each controller and assist with more efficient watering by calculating the solar, wind, rain and other data and only allowing enough water to come on in response to actual weather. We are also working on a cost effective way to provide computer assisted monitoring and control for a number of the existing irrigation controllers. This would allow the sections that are on large water loops like Slaughter and Escarpment to be monitored and set from a single location.

Other improvements that are currently scheduled are upgrading the Slaughter Lane lighting, landscape renovations at Wildflower Park and Circle C North, and turf and bed improvements throughout.

On your home lawn, wait until you have completed two mowing to put down your fertilizer. This is especially important for St. Augustine grass.

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- **By Email:** programs@austinyymca.org
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CCHOA News Continued**Barking Dog Complaints**

The Association receives quite a few barking dog complaints from residents. The current policy of the HOA is to send a cooperative letter to the owner making them aware that their dog(s) barking is a nuisance to their neighbors. In order for the HOA to send a letter, we **MUST** have the correct address and specific dates and times the dog(s) are barking. We recommend that you first talk to your neighbor about their dog(s) – perhaps they are unaware that the dog(s) are a nuisance.

A resident may also choose to file a complaint with Municipal Court at the City of Austin. City of Austin code states:

Section 3-3-9 Noise by Dogs

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor any dog which makes frequent or long, continued noise which is disturbing to persons in the neighborhood who have normal nervous sensibilities.

You may obtain more information by calling Municipal Court at 974-4800.

Architectural Control Committee Rules for Gated Communities

According to the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions of Circle C Ranch, all improvements are required to go through the Architectural Review Process as defined in Article IV. The Circle C Homeowners Association has a convenient way for getting your improvements approved by the Architectural Control Committee. If you go to the CCHOA website at www.circlecranch.info, and access member services, the guidelines and forms necessary are provided.

If you live in a gated community, your individual homeowners association may have additional rules for you to follow. The CCHOA wants to make sure that you obtain approval from the Architectural Control Committee. Your first step in improving your property should be to get ACC approval from the CCHOA and then, if your improvement is approved, check with your individual association to see if there are any additional rules you might need to follow for that association.

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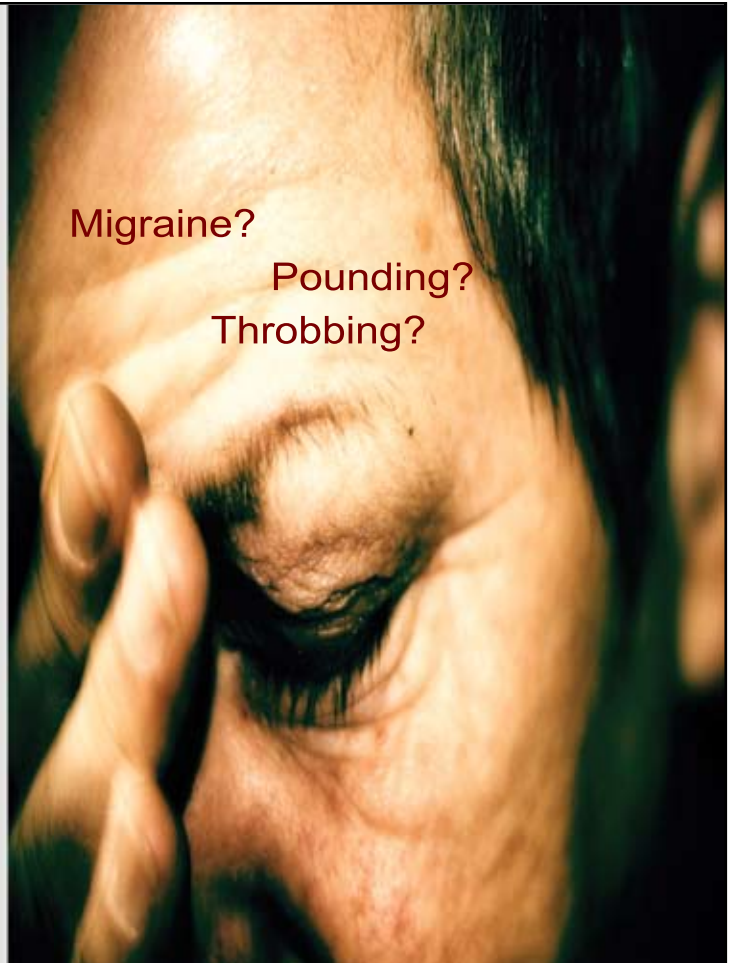
- Dr. Brad Holden

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CCHOA News Continued

Deed Restriction News

Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, CCHOA Manager

The CCHOA has recently hired a part time person to help with the review of deed restrictions. HOA staff will be driving from 2 to 4 sections per month to note any violations of the deed restrictions. So far for 2009, we have already driven 13 sections of the neighborhood (there are a total of 18 sections in Circle C). Violations may include, but are not limited to: excessive weeds, areas of no turf, dead shrubs and/or trees, yard art, grass that is not edged or mowed, areas of dead grass, boats, RV's, trailers and general home maintenance issues. We are required to send notification of deed restriction violations via certified mail and we also send regular mail. This time of year we are not sending letters

on turf, shrub or plant issues since we are still technically in winter. We will begin sending notices in late March on these issues. If you received a notification last fall regarding your turf, shrubs or plant, please be prepared to have these violations cured by the end of March. If you receive a deed restriction violation notice, PLEASE CALL the HOA office at 288-8663. It's impossible to know everyone's individual situation, so we appreciate communication from you.

If you have a deed restriction to report, you may submit the specific address at info@circlecranch.info or give us a call at 288-8663. Violations that are reported

are generally checked with 2 business days and if we are able to confirm a violation, we will begin the deed restriction process (which you can access on the website at <http://www.circlecranch.info/documents/AssociationDocuments/DeedRestrictions/CCHOA-DeedRestrictionPolicy2003.pdf>)



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CCHOA News Continued**Fire Prevention in Circle C Ranch
Natural Areas, Drainage Areas, Greenbelts**

This year the CCHOA is particularly concerned about fire danger due to the extended extreme drought. Many of you may back up to natural areas and we want to make sure that you do your part in preventing wildfires in Circle C. On a windy day, wildfires could rapidly spread to our homes.

Basic rules for naturalized areas:

- do not throw cigarette butts or anything else that could cause a fire over your back fence into a natural area. This is the single biggest cause of wildfires.
- do not throw your brush, leaves, twigs or tree limbs into the greenbelt. This is illegal and dry brush is prime fuel for fires. The City of Austin will pick up your small brush and debris if you place it in a small trash can or a leaf bag on garbage day.
- do not store any hazardous chemicals or materials in natural areas behind your fence
- keep your fence line free and clear of debris.
- naturalized areas in Circle C have a variety of owners. This is not your personal land to turn into an extended yard or storage area. Keep personal items out of the area.

Types of naturalized areas in Circle C and who takes care of them:

The CCHOA owns several drainage areas behind homes. These areas are mowed or weedeated only where grassy by the CCHOA three times per year. Wooded areas remain naturalized.

They include:

- drainage area between Rickerhill and Redmond Road that begins at Back Bay
- drainage area between Gorham Glen and Back Bay
- drainage area between Escarpment and Dahlgreen, on north side of Redmond
- drainage area between Sierra Ridge and Tanaqua
- drainage area off Spruce Canyon at SH 45, east side
- extension of Dahlgreen to South Bay

Other areas are owned by the City of Austin Parks Department. The City is fine with any individual owner weedeating behind their home for about 20 feet if you have high grass.

These areas include:

- ravine at Circle C west, behind Capstone, Tollesboro, Nusser, Maelin, Doswell, Pairnoy, Ariock
- areas in parkland behind Circle C on the Park and some areas of Park West
- for areas along the Veloway, please check with City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Additional areas owned by the City of Austin water utility. These areas are totally off limits and the City takes care of mowing behind them on a regular basis. Contact the Austin Water Department if you have questions

- Hansa, Seneca Falls, Bastogne, Haggans, and Via Verde

TxDot right of way:

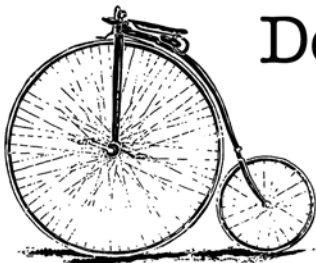
- Wildflower Park off MoPac. This area belongs to the Highway department and they will be able to inform you of scheduled mowings.

Pipeline Areas off Slaughter Lane:

Areas adjacent to Circle C North, Vintage Place, and Park Place that are in a pipeline easement are taken care of by the pipeline company.

Don't want to wait for the mail?

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Circle C Newsletter on the 1st day
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CCHOA News Continued

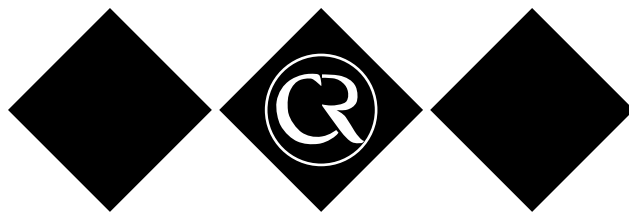


Bring Your Tabs

Please continue bringing us your aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who has begun the habit of collecting their aluminum soda can tabs! The HOA is continuing to collect aluminum soda can tabs in the management office so please **DO NOT** throw your cans away without taking off the tabs. The tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central

Texas. To read more about the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas, you can visit <http://www.rmhc-austin.org/>



Easter Weekend Tile Project

Submitted by Brandon Ducote, Aquatics Director

On April 11, the Circle C Swim Center will be holding a neighborhood tile project for the swimming pool from 8 to 10am. There will be 6 x 6 tiles for children and family members to paint which will then be used as decoration on the wall near the baby pool. There are 215 spots available on the wall and the tiles will be for sale at \$10 per tile. The price includes: one tile, paint, supplies, firing of tile, and installation of the tile. This is a great and fun way to spend time with the family, as well as meet new families and forever being connected with the Circle C community. Come and paint one for the entire family or a couple for each member!

When: April 11th Time: 8-10am Cost: \$10 per tile

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CCHOA News Continued

City of Austin Upcoming Prescribed Burns

The City of Austin Water Quality Protection Lands Program has notified us of the following upcoming prescribed burns:

-Upper Bear Creek Management Unit, approximately 1.25 miles southwest of the intersection of Slaughter Lane and Brodie Lane sometime between Feb 1, 2009 and April 20, 2009

- Multiple prescribed burns on the Slaughter Creek Management Unit (McKownville and Old Fields), approximately ½ mile southeast of the FM 1826 and Slaughter Lane intersection sometime between Feb1, 2009 and April 20, 2009.

From WQPL:

The prescribed burn will be managed by the Austin Water Utility's Wildland Conservation Division in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Texas Forest Service and personnel from the local emergency service districts, including the Manchaca and Austin Fire Departments. These organizations have committed to ensuring the prescribed burn will be carried out safely and effectively. Plans have been prepared to prevent escape of the fire and to reduce the dispersal of smoke into residential areas and roadways.

As it is possible that area residents may encounter some smoke, we are contacting you to inform you of the planned burn. In addition, we are seeking to identify individuals with health problems that can be aggravated by smoke so we can coordinate with them to avoid impacts to their health. If you, or members of your family, have health issues that may be affected by smoke, or if you have questions, please contact Glen Gillman, Fire Management Specialist, at 512-263-6442 or glen.gillman@ci.austin.tx.us

If you would like more information about the Water Quality Protection Lands please visit our website at: www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland.

Development Update

Wildflower Commons Planned Unit Development is located on the east side of Mopac (where it turns into SH-45). They have submitted a zoning change to the City of Austin to change from SF-2 (single family) and GO (general office) to a PUD (planned unit development). Originally the hearing was planned for February 12, but it has been postponed until August 20, 2009. We will post further information as it comes available.

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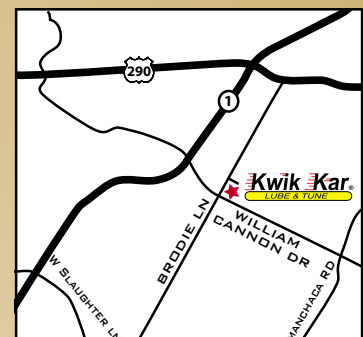
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Helping a local.... Circle C Family

On October 11, 2008; 11 year old JD Hartman had a near drowning accident in the family pool. His dad took him out of the water and began CPR. EMS arrived promptly and were able to start JD's heart again.

Following the accident, JD was taken to Dell Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas. He was in ICU at Dell until November 6th when he was transferred to Our Children's House at Baylor in Dallas, Texas. Today, JD is in Dallas. He is still in a coma but improving with slow but steady progress.

This family needs all the prayers and support that we can offer. To help with some of the bills, some friends have purchased orange bracelets and are selling them to raise money for the family and to show our community support. Nobody can ever imagine something so tragic happening to their children or families. The Hartman's have said that all of the well wishers and support have meant the world to them and have helped them continue to push through this very trying time.

The expenses associated with JD's accident continue to be realized. These expenses include modifications to the Hartman's home, a vehicle to accommodate JD's needs, medical procedures and a great deal of other issues that will either not be covered at all or only partially covered by medical insurance.

If you'd like to contribute to this fund instead of purchasing bracelets, please make your check payable to: First Evangelical Free Church. In the memo line write: Hartman Family Expense Fund.

Address your envelope to:

Att: Pastor Don Read
First Evangelical Free Church,
4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78749.

Contributions are not tax deductible.

If you would like to take a meal to the Hartman family, please visit the Pray for JD website and follow the link to the care calendar.

You may purchase a bracelet for \$5 at the Child Development Center. All of the proceeds will go directly to the Hartman Family. You can pay with cash or write a check to the First Evangelical Free Church of Austin and write in the memo line "Hartman Family Expense Fund". You can also order the bracelets online at www.prayforjd.com.

Please, let's join together
and help our neighbor.

Pray, Pray, Pray for JD
www.prayforjd.com



CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

Park West HOA News

(Specifically for Park West Residents) • Submitted by Jackie Rollins

Due to a publishing error, the February Park West HOA News was omitted in its entirety from last month's Circle C Newsletter. Therefore, the following report, written for that column by the outgoing Board President, is included in this issue so that Park West residents have the opportunity to read it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2008 was a busy year for your Park West HOA Board of Directors. In addition to the many unscheduled things that require action, like gate malfunctions, light outages and missing street signs, we tackled a number of major projects. In January, we were required to make a quick decision concerning trash collection and, following a survey of homeowners, decided to switch from a commercial company to the City of Austin which provided essentially the same service for less money. We also negotiated a multiyear contract with Pearson Landscaping, saving the HOA nearly \$23,000 over a three-year period, and had them install or add sprinklers at both mail centers. After a few rain delays, we completed a project to seal cracks and apply a protective coating on all Park West streets and repair and repaint our automatic gates. Other projects included a proposed

change to the Park West Covenants and improvements to Lot 103, which contains the drainage area behind our subdivision. These will be explained further at our Annual Meeting in February. On the social front, we enjoyed our annual barbecue, conducted our second homeowner garden tour and sponsored wine tasting and other events. Financially, we ended the year with a surplus of almost \$17,000 bringing our reserve fund to just over \$318,000. It took a lot of time, effort and teamwork to get it all done and I would like to thank each Board member and all the others in the community who pitched in to make 2008 a very successful year. Let's do it again this year. Les Weinstein, President, Park West HOA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations to new Director Ruth Bolsen, elected to a three-year term at the PWHOA Annual meeting on February 3. She fills one of the two open positions left by Directors whose terms had ended. At the time this column went to print, the second seat was still open, to be filled by a volunteer, not yet selected, for a one year term. The 2009 PWHOA Board of Directors includes Richard Scott,

(Continued on Page 13)

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 12)

President; Frances Bush, Vice President; Jackie Rollins, Secretary; and Ruth Bolsen, Treasurer.

LOT 103 UPDATE

A major clean-up job was recently performed by Pearson Landscape Service on lot 103, the drainage area at the northwest corner of Park West. This was long over due and necessary to reduce the risk of fire. It also looks a lot better. Because of safety, security and liability concerns, the PWHOA has also contracted with AZ Fence Company to do some additional work. An iron fence will be installed at the deep storm drain to prevent potential injury. The vehicle gate will be replaced with a 6' high iron gate to prevent people from climbing over it. And the pedestrian gate will be removed to discourage trespassing on Park West property by non-residents.

LOOK AGAIN

The PWHOA Rules are clear: the speed limit on all Park West's streets is 20 miles per hour. However, the signs at both the east and west entrance gate did not post the mileage - just a caution to "drive carefully." Wait! Look again. Brand new signs, recently posted, clearly state that the speed limit is 20 miles per hour.

NEW WEBMASTER

Ruth Bolsen is the new webmaster for the Park West community website. She urges those who haven't yet logged on to the site to do so now to take advantage of the wealth of information it offers, such as community documents including all Board meeting minutes, a discussion group, classified ads, pet photos, social events, and much more. E-mail ruthbolsen@austin.rr.com or call her at 301-2281 for the registration code which is needed to complete the initial log on process at www.hoatown.com/parkwest.

LANDSCAPE NEWS

A maintenance project was recently completed that included fertilization, pruning and/or roof clearance of front and side yard trees with over 8 ft clearance, identified by an arborist, and approved by the PWHOA Board of Directors, as those being most in need of immediate attention. Homeowners whose trees were on the list were notified in advance; and Tree Masters, the company that performed the work, notified residents that while they were in the neighborhood, a discount would be offered for maintenance of other trees not on the list, including backyard trees. Pearson Landscape

(Continued on Page 14)



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 13)

Service is offering annual color installation to residents for \$3.98 per 4" pot installed. If you are interested in having annual color installed at your house, e-mail Mark Biechler at mark@pearsonlandscape.com. In addition to aerating and fertilizing, Pearson has already started spreading a new and improved pre-emergent over Park West's lawns and gardens. This pre-emergent was recently introduced to the landscape industry and they believe, from all reports, that it will yield great results.

REMINDER

Before any work begins on front and side yard landscaping improvements or changes, including removing or transplanting existing shrubs and plants, and any structural alterations, they must be approved by the PWHOA Board of Directors and, for hardscape landscaping changes and all structural alterations, the Circle C Architectural Control Committee as well. Park West, as a gated community, has specific rules conducive to the maintenance and retention of its unique appearance. As residents of Park West, each of us has a responsibility to ensure the continuance of the beauty and special appeal that convinced scores of us to make our homes here. If you are unsure about a rule, or need to refresh your memory

regarding a Circle C or Park West covenant, you will find them all posted on our community website under Community Documents. Please contact Board member Jackie Rollins with any questions or concerns you may have on this subject.

BROKEN RECORD DEPARTMENT

- No overnight parking is allowed on the street. Move your vehicle onto the driveway or into the garage.
- Place your garbage and recycling containers out of view from the street, either in the garage or behind the fence. Do not leave them curbside longer than a total of 12 hours from before and after pickup. If you are gone on pickup day, arrange for a neighbor or friend to place them at the curb and return them to their resting place within the 12 hour time frame. Never put them out a day (or earlier) in advance or leave them out for a day or longer after pickup.
- Carry a plastic bag for the scooped poop when walking your dog.
- Never, ever walk your dog off-leash. Walking an unleashed pet is in violation of City of Austin ordinances, Circle C Covenants and Park West HOA rules.

(Continued on Page 15)

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 14)

- The speed limit on all Park West streets is 20 mph. There are signs. Please slow down.
- Remove those unsightly oil stains on your driveway as part of routine driveway/Street Yard maintenance.

GOOD NEIGHBOR

The PWHOA Board of Directors extends kudos and appreciation to former community website administrator Kathy Jedrzejewicz for her two years of service and creativity in maintaining the website. Kathy volunteered many hours of her time and energy, from the site's inception, to help make the website a most versatile and valuable communication tool. The HOA's thanks are extended to Kathy for a job well done.

If you know someone who should be given credit for being a good neighbor, please e-mail their name(s) and a brief description of what good deed they've done to JackieRollins02@aol.com for inclusion in next month's column. Until then, your suggestions and ideas for topics are appreciated. And please consider submitting a "trip report" for Been There, Done That and an item for the Helping Hands section.

Clayton Elementary Congratulates Their Cardinals!

Submitted by Catherine Thurk

Clayton Elementary had over 300 children who participated in this year's Reflections ART program - A SCHOOL RECORD! Local artists judged the categories and picked the top 20 percent to move on to the local council level. Those entries have been judged and there were 51 total entries from our local council that are advancing to state level, including Austin middle schools.

The amazing thing is that of those 51 entries advancing to state, 16 of those are from Clayton! Clayton had 344 of the total 654 entrants for our area (53%)!

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

JD Benefit and Silent Auction

Submitted by Valerie King



A Circle C resident and fifth grader at Clayton Elementary, JD Hartman had a near drowning accident on October 11, 2008 in his family pool. His dad took him out of the water and began CPR. EMS arrived promptly and were able to start JD's heart again.

Following the accident, JD was taken to Dell Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas. He was in ICU at Dell until November 6th when he was transferred to Our Children's House at Baylor in Dallas, Texas. Today,

JD is in Dallas recovering from his injuries. He is still in a coma but improving with slow but steady progress.

The expenses associated with JD's accident continue to be realized. Expenses such as modifications to the Hartman's home and a vehicle to accommodate JD's needs, as well as some medical procedures and a great deal of other issues that will either not be covered at all or only partially covered by medical insurance.

Wristbands are being sold as a way to remember to pray for JD's recovery and show support for the Hartman family. All the proceeds will go directly into the "Hartman Family Expense Fund" established at the First Evangelical Free Church in Austin.

Also, a benefit barbecue and silent auction will be held for JD on Friday, April 3rd at the Grey Rock Golf Club in Circle C. Please plan on attending to support this remarkable family! To order bracelets or benefit tickets or to find out how you can help, please visit www.prayforjd.com.



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Cont.

Grief Share

Submitted by Nancy Zaloga

GriefShare (www.griefshare.org) will meet at Manchaca United Methodist Church, located at 1011 FM 1626, from 3–5 p.m. each Sunday beginning March 8. \$12 charge for workbook (scholarships available). GriefShare is a 13-week faith-based seminar and support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You may begin the class at any point during the 13-week time frame. Call 280-7241 for further information.

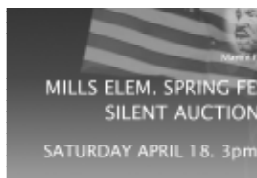
Do You Know A Hero?

Submitted by Michelle Moon Reinhardt

Mills Elementary will honor heroes of all kinds during its annual Spring Festival, which will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 3–7pm. Spring Festival committee members are currently looking for heroes within our community. We are inviting our community heroes to the library during the spring festival to speak to our audience about their role in our community.

If you would like to be a hero, email dorsey@io.com to secure a time to speak. Firefighters, police, EMS workers, supermoms, doctors, nurses, nuclear engineers, anyone who wishes to influence our youth need apply.

Let's step up parents and let the children see you as the hero you are! The Spring Festival Committee is also looking for donations for the Silent Auction held during the festival.



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

The Subject is Taxes

Submitted by Jackie Rollins, Park West resident and Enrolled Agent

The following information which includes some new deductions or credits and some increased existing ones, may be helpful in preparing your 2008 tax return. They may even save you some money!

Rebates

News flash! The Economic Stimulus Payment (or rebate) that you and most people received last year is not taxable and is not reported on your 2008 tax return. However, it does affect whether you can claim the new 2008 Recovery Rebate Credit and how much of the credit you can get. The credit is figured like last year's stimulus payment except that the amount is based on tax year 2008 instead of 2007. If you want to know how much of a stimulus payment you received in 2008 and to see if you qualify for the Recovery Rebate Credit for 2008, go the IRS website at www.irs.gov and click on "How Much Was My 2008 Stimulus Payment?" Also on the website, the Recovery Rebate Calculator will help you determine if you are eligible and, if so, figure the amount that should be claimed. To use the calculator, you must know the exact amount of the economic stimulus payment you received last year. Visit the IRS website for more details and online tools to help you figure the credit. In most cases, the IRS can do the calculations; and the instructions for Forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ contain a worksheet for manually calculating the credit. If you use a computer to prepare your taxes, your tax preparation software program will automatically figure your eligibility for an additional Recovery Rebate Credit. The following are some factors that may affect eligibility for the Recovery Rebate Credit:

- Income change. Some people may have received less than the full Economic Stimulus Payment in 2008 (\$600 for single filers or \$1,200 for married filers) because their qualifying or gross incomes were either too high or too low. A change in income could make a filer eligible to receive more of the credit in 2009.
- Addition of a child. Filers could get an additional \$300 for the birth or adoption of a child in 2008.
- Social security and veterans' benefits recipients. If a retiree or veteran did not receive at least \$3,000 in qualifying benefits in

2007 but did collect that amount in 2008, he or she may be eligible.

- No longer a dependent. Individuals who were claimed or could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return in 2007, but who cannot be claimed as one for 2008, may now be eligible.
- Social security number. Individuals who did not have a valid social security number in 2007 but received one in 2008, may now be eligible.

Tax Breaks

Several popular tax breaks that expired at the end of 2007 were renewed for tax years 2008 and 2009. As a result, eligible taxpayers can claim

- The deduction for state and local sales taxes on Form 1040, Schedule A, Itemized Deductions, Line 5
- The educator expense deduction on Form 1040, Line 23, or Form 1040A, Line 16
- The tuition and fees deduction on Form 8917

In addition, the residential solar energy-efficient credit is extended through 2016. In general, solar electric and solar water heating qualify for this credit. Use Form 5695 to claim the credit.

Regarding the sales tax deduction on Schedule A, Itemized Deductions, you can use either your actual expenses or the optional sales tax table found in the Form 1040 instruction book. But remember that if you use the optional table, it does not include the local sales tax (the table says 6.25% for Texas; but Austin and many surrounding areas, for example, are 8.25%, an additional 2% over state), so don't cheat yourself out of that extra amount – figure your local amount separately and add it to the table amount. A shortcut in doing this is to multiply the table amount by .32 and the result is the figure you will add to the state table amount for the grand total. You can also add to the table amount any sales tax paid on a large ticket item such as a vehicle, a boat, aircraft, home (including mobile or prefabricated) or home building materials.

(Continued on Page 20)

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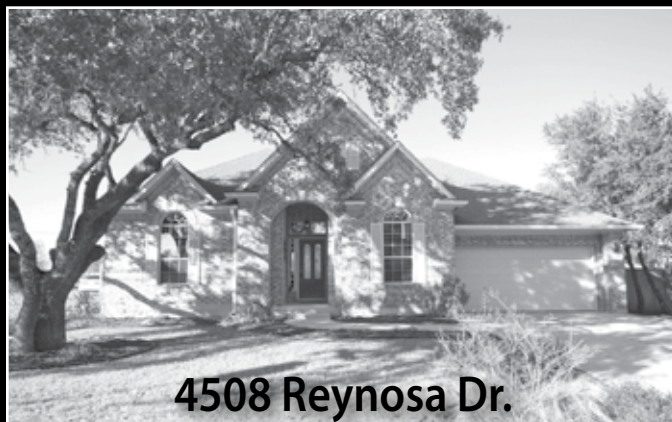
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After we spent the weekend making the suggested changes, we had several showings and all commented on how great the house looked. Just two days after relisting our home with Goldwasser Real Estate and implementing their complete marketing plan, we received an offer on the house! Their service and skills made the difference, and gave us an edge over other houses around us for sale. ”

—Shannon and Catherine Siver



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

The Subject is Taxes (Continued from Page 18)

Rise in Contribution Limits for IRAs and Other Retirement Plans

This filing season, more people can make tax deductible contributions to traditional IRAs and non-deductible contributions to Roth IRAs due to higher phase-out ranges. Phase-out range amounts and other detailed information can be found on the IRS website. In 2008, the elective contribution limit for employees who participate in a 401(k), 403(b) and most 457 plans remains unchanged at \$15,500. However, this limit rises to \$16,500 in 2009. The catch-up contribution limit for those ages 50 to 70-1/2 remains at \$5,000 for 2008 but rises to \$5,500 in 2009.

Standard Deduction Increases

The standard deduction has increased for most taxpayers. This is good news for the nearly two out of three taxpayers who choose to take the standard deduction rather than itemize their deductions. Additional, higher amounts apply to the blind and senior citizens. New for 2008, taxpayers can claim an additional standard deduction based on state or local real estate taxes paid in 2008. Also new for 2008, a taxpayer can increase their standard deduction by the net disaster losses suffered from a federally declared disaster. A worksheet is available in the Forms 1040 and 1040A instructions.

Standard Mileage Rates Adjusted for 2008

The standard mileage rate for business use of a car, van, pick-up or panel truck is 50.5 cents per mile from January 1 to June 30, 2008, up 2 cents from 2007. Then gas prices rose and the mileage rate was adjusted to 58.5 cents per business mile for the rest of 2008. The standard mileage rate for operating a vehicle for medical reasons, or as part of a deductible move, from January 1 to June 30, 2008, is 19 cents a mile, down a penny from 2007. For the rest of 2008, the rate is 27 cents a mile. The standard mileage rate for using a car to provide services to charitable organizations is set by law and remains at 14 cents a mile. This is discussed next in Volunteer Mileage.

Volunteer Mileage

Here's a reminder for those of you who volunteer your time to a charitable organization (and there are many of you good folks in Circle C who do), the cost of driving to and from the organization(s) where you volunteer may be deductible on your tax return as a charitable contribution. This includes your actual volunteer duty mileage as well as mileage to and from volunteer meetings, social functions and all other volunteer activities if you itemize your deductions on Form 1040, Schedule A. You can also include out-

(Continued on Page 21)

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Cont.

The Subject is Taxes (Continued from Page 20)

of-pocket expenses, such as the cost of gas and oil that are directly related to the use of your automobile while donating your services to a charitable organization. The deduction goes on Line 17, gifts to charity – other than by cash or check, of Schedule A. If you don't want to deduct your actual expenses, you can use a standard mileage rate of 14 cents a mile to figure your contribution, along with the cost of any parking and tolls incurred. Be sure to keep written records of your auto expenses for three years from the due date of the return.

First-Time Homebuyer Credit

Those who bought a main home recently or are considering buying one may qualify for the first-time homebuyer credit. Normally, a taxpayer qualifies if they didn't own a main home during the prior three years. This unique credit of up to \$7,500 works much like a 15-year interest-free loan. It is available for a limited time only – on homes bought from April 9, 2008 to June 30, 2009. It can be claimed on the new Form 5405 and is repaid each year as an additional tax. Income limits and other special rules apply. News Release 2008-106, which can be found on the IRS website, has more details and answers to questions.

Miscellaneous

- The value of each personal and dependency exemption is \$3,500, up \$100 from 2007. This is one of more than three dozen individual and business tax provisions that are adjusted each year to keep pace with inflation.
- The earned income tax credit, available to low and moderate income workers and working families, helps taxpayers whose incomes are below certain income thresholds. Both the income threshold levels and maximum credit amount are increased for 2008. One in six taxpayers claims this credit, which, unlike most tax breaks, is refundable, meaning that individuals can get the credit even if they owe no tax and even if no tax is withheld from their paychecks.
- The five-percent tax rate on qualified dividends and net capital gains is reduced to zero. In general, this reduction applies to investors whose income is below:
 - \$65,100 if married filing jointly or qualifying widow or widower
 - \$32,550 if single or married filing separately or
 - \$43,650 if head of household.
- The "kiddie tax" has been revised. The tax on a child's investment income applies if the child has investment income greater than \$1,800 and is:
 - Under 18 years old
 - 18 years of age and had earned income that was equal to or less than half of his or her total support in 2008 or
 - Over 18 and under 24, a student and during 2008 had earned income that was equal to or less than half of his or her total support.

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

It's My Park! Day – At The Veloway Hill Country Inline Club has 'adopted' the VELOWAY.

Submitted by Nicole Fisher, President Hill Country Inline Club

Saturday March 7th

Help Plant, Tend, and Build Austin's Parks

Here's your chance to meet your neighbors, get some exercise, and make a difference! Join us at the Veloway, register online at, www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html. go here for DIRECT LINK: http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1205/t/3511/event/index.jsp?event_KEY=47237

HCIC, has adopted the Veloway again this year.

You can be a volunteer and a Super Helper and MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE - Your participation is Thanked for, in-advance! Please sign up -even have a friend sign up with you. we are looking for 30 volunteers. It is going to be a Lot of FUN this year! Everyone get's a t-shirt - there will be drinks and snacks and tools provided - one just has to register on line and then just show up with gloves, sun protection :)!

There will also be someone at the front of the Veloway - with the 'Shade the Veloway' project accepting donations. www.hillcountryinlineclub.com

It's going to be a GREAT DAY of accomplishment!

Plan to skate and bike afterwards if you want.

We LOVE the Veloway!

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Cont.

Lover of the Veloway?

Submitted by Nicole Fisher

'Shade the Veloway' Project could use your help!

The Hill Country Inline Club along with Austin Parks Foundation is raising money to install a brand new shaded seating structure. Please show your support by making a donation to this project. Donations can be made to the Austin Parks Foundation by going to www.hillcountryinlineclub.com and click on 'donate now.' This project is much needed and will benefit all users of the Veloway.



Sketch: not to scale. Thanks to Land Design Partners

SHADE THE VELOWAY

Special Fundraising Event

Spring Cleaning for your

Skates and Bikes at the Veloway

Saturday, March 21st

8:30am - 2:30pm

Hill Country Inline Club - Will be providing mechanical support for your skates. Bring your Skates and receive FREE 'skate check' with a suggest-ed donation. Our skilled skaters will provide proper adjustments needed to your skates Ex: wheel rotation, clean bearings etc., to get you on the road smoothly and safely.

Bicycle Sport Shop - Supports the 'Shade the Veloway Project'

Bicycle Sport Shop will be providing mechanical support for your bikes(Mt. and Road bikes).

Bring your bike and receive a FREE 'bike check' with a suggested donation. Our skilled mechanics will make any small adjustments needed to get you on the road smoothly and safely. *Tune-ups and major adjustments will be referred to the service department at either Bicycle Sport Shop location. Will be offering Specially designed 'I helped Shade the Veloway' T-Shirts, Yummy Finger food, water, treats! Enjoy the use of the Veloway while there!

100% of donations go to the fund

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March & April Home Games


Mar. 10	Toros vs. Ft. Wayne	7:30pm
Apr. 01	Toros vs. Tulsa	7:30pm
Apr. 04	Toros vs. Iowa	7:30pm
Apr. 07	Toros vs. Reno	7:30pm
Apr. 08	Toros vs. Rio Grande Valley	7:30pm
Apr. 10	Toros vs. Rio Grande Valley	8:30pm

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Circle C Amenities

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Circle C Amenities Continued

Circle C Manager Repeats Mabry Championship



General Manager Fernando Velasco (right) successfully defended his championship in the Men's 65 and over Singles Division in the Mabry Major Zone tournament by defeating Jerry Bruns (left) 6-0, 6-2 in the finals. The event was held in San Antonio the weekend of January 29 – February 1st. With this win, he becomes the Number One ranked player in Texas in his division.

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Circle C Amenities Continued

2009 Brings Moderate Wildflower Displays, Good Showings from Hardier, Late Bloomers

Recent rains will help Engelmann daisy and some other wildflowers this season, but can't make up for sparse rain last fall in Central Texas, according to a University of Texas at Austin expert at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

"We're in an exceptional drought in Central Texas," said Damon Waitt, the center's senior botanist. "Wildflowers that are heavily dependent on fall rains, such as bluebonnets and Indian paintbrush, won't be as dramatic as in some years, but species that are adapted to drier climates and are late bloomers should put on a good show."

The multi-year drought in the heart of Texas creates a cycle of fewer wildflowers that may make some roadside displays seem lean, Waitt explained. When rain is sparse in the fall, fewer wildflowers develop, producing fewer seeds to set the stage for the next season's displays.

"It's like the financial crisis," Waitt said. "We've been making more withdrawals than deposits to the Texas 'seed bank,' which means some wildflower numbers are down overall."

But for those who need a bluebonnet fix, there is a new option—a broadcast on the Web—of camera footage of some of the many thriving bluebonnets at the Wildflower Center.

"If you're curious about seeing a bluebonnet develop from its juvenile into its adult stage, you'll be able to click on the bluebonnet 'cam' link daily if you'd like," Waitt said.

Texas roadsides and fields will feature colorful natives starting mid-spring that do fine in dry years, such as those in the sunflower family. These hardy wildflowers get a break from the minimal competition from other species and the fact that native grasses don't grow as tall in dry years, helping perennials such as pink evening primrose and late bloomers stand out.

(Continued on Page 29)



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Circle C Amenities Continued

2009 Brings Moderate Wildflower - (Continued from Page 28)

Besides the primrose and Engelmann daisy, other hardy species to look for include Indian blanket, Mexican hat and black-eyed Susan. Travelers outside Central Texas will also have a chance to see some perennial favorites in areas with more rain. Early possibilities this season include Brazoria County to the east of Lake Jackson, where Indian paintbrush and windflower are blooming, and desert marigold seen in Presidio County.

Hundreds of bluebonnets will also be added soon to the list of blooming plants in the gardens and meadows maintained at the Wildflower Center. The bluebonnet leaf rosettes are now hugging the ground, as shown on the bluebonnet cam, waiting for warmer weather in upcoming weeks to extend flower stems and blooms.

Center staff will mark peaceful spots for taking bluebonnet photos. March visitors to the center will also see more than a dozen pieces from the Texas Society of Sculptors. Their members' nature-themed sculptures will be present throughout the center's 16 gardens beginning March 2.

To learn more about wildflowers from Texas and other states, search the Wildflower Center's Native Plant Database. To locate distributors of native plants and seeds, visit the online search engine.

Wildflower photos are available upon request

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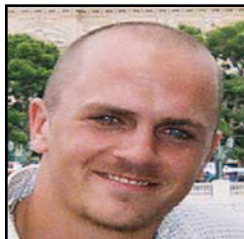
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David Hunsaker,
Owner

Circle C Amenities Continued

Wildflower March Events

Submitted by Saralee O Tiede

Artists & Artisans Festival

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 21 and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 22

Favorite artists return and new ones appear to exhibit their work in watercolors, metal, wood, ceramics and many other materials. Dalhart Windberg, introduces his annual print benefiting the Wildflower Center, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. Shou Ping shows her watercolor sculptures and Mary Catherine Gardner, official Wildflower Days™ 2009 artist, signs her print, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Sign up for Go Native U

This is our popular series of how-to gardening classes plus—new this year -- five sustainability classes focused on ways to manage soil, water, plants and materials to improve sustainability. Register at www.wildflower.org

Texas Society of Sculptors Exhibit

March 3 through May 31.

Outdoor works by Texas sculptors on display throughout our gardens

Nature Nights, Look to the Stars

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 6

Join Kyle Fricke of McDonald Observatory for an engaging look into the cosmos. Field telescope viewing, \$1 admission.

Wildflower Days™ Begin

The Center is open every day 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. until March 16 until May 31

Artists Reception

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday March 15

Join us to meet the sculptors and members of the Texas Society of Sculptors.

Shou Ping Exhibit

March 14 through May 31

This renowned artist creates watercolor paintings of and cuts them to form three-dimensional sculptures. At the McDermott Center.

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Circle C Newsletter

The Circle C Newsletter is a monthly publication mailed to all Circle C residents. If you have an article of interest to the community please submit to info@circlecranch.info by the 12th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.circlecranch.info

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Circle C Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail to info@circlecranch.info.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$65, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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Attention Teenagers: The Teenage Job Seekers listing service is offered free of charge to all Circle C Ranch teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to info@circlecranch.info by the 12th of the month!

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Looking for a Way to Spend Your "Best Day Ever"?

Register to play in the Colin's Hope Classic golf tournament on Thurs, April 23!

The tournament is a fundraiser for a new local charity, Colin's Hope, which was founded in August 2008 in honor of Colin Krogh Holst. Colin was only 4 years old when he drowned in a local public pool last June. Sadly, after struggling to understand how this could happen, his family and friends learned that his death is only one of so many like it, as drowning is the second leading cause of death in children under the age of 14. Armed with this knowledge, Colin's family decided to find a way to turn their unimaginable loss into an organization driven to save children from drowning, and Colin's Hope was born. The charity is a nonprofit foundation which creates and supports programs to aid in the prevention of childhood drowning. Colin's Hope has had the privilege to work alongside other nonprofits such as The Junior League of Austin, YMCA and Partnerships for Children to implement initiatives such as sponsoring swim lessons for underprivileged children and educating parents, children, and lifeguards on water safety. You can learn more about Colin's Hope at www.colinshope.org.

The foundation's first fundraiser was the sale of Colin's Cookbook in the fall. The cookbook, which began with recipes from all the meals provided to the family after Colin's death, was a huge success, raising more than \$10,000 for Colin's Hope and allowing the foundation to begin to have a presence in our community.

The Colin's Hope Classic will be the second major fundraiser for Colin's Hope, and its all-volunteer staff hopes to raise more than \$40,000. This would allow them to initiate many more water safety awareness programs and efforts to improve water safety standards throughout the community as the summer swim season approaches! Colin's Hope is privileged to have Garrett Weber-Gale, a Gold Medal Olympian at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Texas Longhorn alum, as the Honorary Chair for the tournament. Garrett Weber-Gale has generated his own buzz lately by winning his first of two Olympic gold medals as part of the U.S. 4x100 relay team in the race that is now widely considered to be the best relay swimming race of all time!

The tournament will be held at The Hills of Lakeway, Yaupon course, on April 23, 2009 at 1:00pm. Registration fees are \$150 per person, which gives the golfer a spot in the 4-person scramble, lunch, dinner and numerous generously donated prizes. You can register to play in this inaugural tournament securely online at www.colinshope.org. Once registered, participants have the opportunity to help support Colin's Hope through raising pledges. However, if golf is not your game but you are interested in helping this amazing group in honoring Colin and helping prevent childhood drowning, the tournament is still looking for sponsors, prize donations or simply good, old-fashioned volunteers! All questions or interested parties should be sent to info@colinshope.org. However you choose to participate, we do know, as 4-year old Colin loved to say, that it will be one of your "best days ever."



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North	9	2,070	\$ 126	\$ 261	1996	69	3	2
Wildflower	3	2,008	\$ 133	\$ 266	2000	40	4	2
On The Park	5	3,566	\$ 119	\$ 426	1996	34	3	1
Vintage Place	2	2,927	\$ 104	\$ 303	2004	87	7	0
Hielscher	15	2,872	\$ 121	\$ 348	2003	65	9	5
West	15	3,247	\$ 121	\$ 392	2004	72	7	4
Park West	2	2,146	\$ 146	\$ 313	2002	96	8	1
Park Place	3	2,488	\$ 126	\$ 313	2004	37	4	0
Muirfield	1	4,039	\$ 135	\$ 545	2005	134	3	1
Enclave/Stone Creek	2	2,743	\$ 114	\$ 314	2008	101	17	1
Alta Mira	5	2,958	\$ 126	\$ 371	2007	79	3	1
Circle C Ranch Total	89	2,782	\$ 120	\$ 334	1999	67	87	25
% Change Mo/Mo	-19%	0%	-1%	-1%	0%	8%	-5%	178%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 2/5/2009. In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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